

# MindSpace



Prepared by the GRA Nerve Centre

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*2007 is fast drawing to a close and with the southern hemisphere summer holidays almost upon us; it seems like a good time for a summary of what's happening in the Alliance.*

## GRA People

*Prof Samir K Brahmachari has been appointed Director General of the CSIR in India and Secretary of the DSIR.*

*Prof Brahmachari is a Biophysicist who has made major contributions in the molecular analysis of genetic disorders and has pioneered the functional genomics initiative in India. Prof Brahmachari has received many awards and serves on many high level committees and councils.*

*We wish him much success in his new appointment.*

*Dr Sukumar Devotta, Director, NEERI, CSIR India formed part of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change - Working Group III. The IPCC were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Al Gore.*

*Dr Devotta has contributed to four inter-governmental Panels on Climate Change. In a message from the co-chairs of the Working Group he was congratulated wholeheartedly on this exceptional recognition.*

*Congratulations on this remarkable achievement*

## Iconic Projects Summary

*GRA Health* - the team that prepared the Discussion Paper on Rural Health in Resource Poor Communities will now develop an engagement strategy to target possible funding agencies.

*IDRC Study* - the first draft of the final report has been submitted to the IDRC and their comments are now being incorporated into the final version of the report.

*Low Cost Internet Access* - a very positive meeting has been between Boeing and the Macha project team and in addition the expanded team which includes the CSIR South Africa and TNO have made considerable progress including the implementation of a telephone service in Macha.

*Department of Science and Technology, South Africa, 10 year plan* - a framework for action has been developed and presented to the Department for consideration. A GRA team has been formed to take this initiative forward as soon as the funding model has been agreed with the Department.

*Tanga District Project* - following the very successful workshop which was held at Zeist in the Netherlands, the dossier on the project has been completed in draft form together with the funding strategy and the research agreement. These documents have been circulated to the team and will be completed once their comments have been incorporated.

*Thanks to all in the GRA family for making 2007 another interesting year!*